



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot Northampton County, PA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

Northampton County is part of the Lehigh Valley region of Pennsylvania. Since the mid-1700s, the Lehigh Valley region has engaged in a wide range of economic activities. Agriculture, rail construction, mining, iron production, steel making, textile production, and the slate and cement industry activities have contributed to the local economy. Economic cycles and industry downturns over the years have led to massive lay-offs and site abandonment. The regional poverty rate is 7 percent, with the poverty in certain boroughs reaching almost 15 percent. Approximately 26 percent of the population has not graduated from high school. Over 75 potential redevelopment sites, totaling 1,100 acres, in 30 municipalities, have been identified and targeted for brownfields redevelopment. Northampton County is a Brownfields Assessment Pilot.

## BCRLF OBJECTIVES

Northampton's BCRLF goals include:

- Revitalization of underutilized properties while protecting the environment;
- Revitalization of the tax base;

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Northampton County, Pennsylvania*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$500,000

**BCRLF Target Area:** Northampton County

## Contacts:

Northampton County  
Department of Community  
and Economic Development  
(610) 559-3200

Region 3 BCRLF  
Coordinator  
  
(215) 814-3246

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/region03/waste/brown/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region03/waste/brown/index.htm)

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

- Provision of a business-friendly environment and resident input into community development; and
- Creation of viable development that discourages sprawl.

Many of the identified sites are located in Keystone Opportunity Zones and/or Enterprise Zones.

## **FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

Northampton County will act as lead agency. A site manager and fund manager will be designated. The County expects to provide loans in amounts ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and with loan terms of between two and seven years.

## **LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES**

Since many of the identified brownfields sites in Northampton County are located in Keystone Opportunity Zones and the Enterprise Zone, the Northampton BCRLF will be used in conjunction with these special designations to allow a variety of tax abatement applications. The Pilot also will consider supplemental loan and grant funding from the Northampton County Industrial Development Authority, the Northampton County and Loan Development Fund, the Northampton Industrial Development Corporation, and the Pennsylvania Industrial Sites Reuse Program. Additionally, the BCRLF award will be leveraged through the provision of services provided by the County.

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*Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.*

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